



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 24, 2005
Week Ending: October 23, 2005
CWP WA-CW4305

Dry Edible Bean Harvest Completed Alfalfa Hay Was Rained On

Field Crops

Washington continued experiencing sporadic rain showers throughout the week, improving crops, rangeland, and moisture conditions. However, rainfall is still short. Winter wheat seeding continued with early seeded fields already emerged. Potato digging and corn harvest for silage wound down while corn harvest for grain continued. Dry edible bean harvest was complete. Christmas tree growers continued removing leader stakes from Noble Fir and preparing harvest roads. Whitman County experienced some killing frost.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 6% very poor, 20% poor, 24% fair, 49% good, and 1% excellent. Alfalfa third cutting hay was close to complete. Alfalfa fourth cutting hay continued with some damage reported due to rain. Calves were being weaned and shipped.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apple, sweet corn, and fall vegetable harvests continued. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported a brisk business over the weekend.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.5
Last Week	6.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	8	21	63	8
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	44	38	3
Subsoil	27	34	35	4
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	48	37	0
Irrigation Water	7	8	85	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	6	93	0
Hay & Roughage	4	9	82	5

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	95	87	98	98
Winter Wheat Emerged	68	48	85	87
Potatoes Harvested	90	85	95	93
Corn Silage Harvested	97	83	95	97
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	100	99	99	99
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	99	99	100	100

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	3	50	33	11
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	19	61	20
Corn	0	0	11	57	32

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: The fall foliage of native big leaf maples, vine maples and Oregon ash have created a tapestry of fall color throughout the rural landscape. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported a brisk business over the weekend as clientele searched for the perfect Halloween Jack-O-Lantern for carving. Christmas tree growers continued removing leader stakes from Noble fir and preparing harvest roads. Sweet corn and silage corn fields have once again turned green as winter cover crops of annual rye have germinated. Commercial dahlia growers were able to extend the sales of cut flowers due to the lack of a killing frost. Home gardeners continued raking leaves and adding them to the compost pile.

Mason: It rained in intervals with accumulation at one and one fourth inches this week. Cattle are feeding on upland pastures out in the open. The last calves were weaned and shipped. With mild temperatures, the leaves have been slow to fall this year.

Pierce: With all the rain in the past three weeks, auger testing revealed surface moisture has only penetrated to a depth of 13.5 inches in open, level pasture areas. Water levels, in irrigation wells, remain 12 to 14 feet below normal October levels.

Snohomish/King: Occasional rains through the week slowed field work. Cooler weather was slowing pasture growth. Pumpkin and apple harvest continued, along with fall vegetables.

Thurston: The week was dominated with rainy weather which limited agricultural activity. Turfgrass growers complained that the rainfall throughout the month continued to prevent any field cultivation due to very wet soils. On the other hand, growers have been able to eliminate supplemental irrigation. Christmas tree growers continued getting harvest roads and machinery prepared for tree harvest slated to begin in mid-November. Home gardeners continued raking leaves. The weather continued to be very mild with no killing frosts since late September.

Thurston (2nd Report): Some haylage bales have suffered rot, not fermentation, as a result of vole penetration.

Whatcom: The two plus inches of rain that fell this past week on top of 1.6 inches over the first two weeks of October has saturated the county. It is a high probability that the remaining unharvested grain and field corn will go unharvested in 2005.

Central

Grant: Fourth cutting of hay was at 70 percent complete with the remainder ruined by the rain.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 5 to 11 degrees above normal with .06 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Soil moisture conditions continued in mostly short and very short supply. Above average winter precipitation is going to be needed to produce average winter wheat crops.

Adams (2nd Report): Weather conditions were favorable to all farming activities during the week. Some winter wheat was seeded in areas where adequate deep moisture to emerge early seedings had been absent. Apples and final hay cutting activities began to wind up. Pasture on rangeland had a nice start, with annual grasses mostly germinated and greening up.

Asotin/Garfield: No change since last report. It's still very dry. Rain was needed for both crops and rangeland.

Lincoln: Moisture conditions continued to reduce in supply, but overall the winter wheat crop looked good but additional precipitation is going to be needed to maintain it.

Pend Oreille: The temperatures were 63 degrees for the highs and 26 degrees for the lows with four inches of precipitation. No farm or ranch activity in this area.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Another week of above normal temperatures. If you like extended Indian summers and no rain fall you'd like this weather. The weather has been good for the winter wheat that was planted after the rain a couple of weeks ago. Earlier seed winter wheat has emerged for the most part and was doing pretty good. Cheatgrass was growing pretty good with the previous moisture and the warm weather. Morning lows were in the mid 30's to high 20's without any real significant killing frost in some areas. Additional moisture would be very welcome.

Stevens: A mid-week rain provided a boost to winter wheat. Calves continued to move to market at good prices.

Walla Walla: Fall planting continued, the weather conditions remained mild with no real precipitation.

Whitman: Continued rains were improving crop and pasture conditions, however, rainfall was still short of average. Fall fieldwork was coming to a close as tillage operations and seeding was nearly completed. Temperatures remained above normal and much of the area has yet to experience a killing frost.

Weekly Weather Statistics

October 24, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	41	66	53	5	25	18	0	0	1.60	0.79	5	5.14	0.88	121	23
Everett	49	69	55	6	39	29	0	0	0.36	-0.37	3	2.87	-1.38	68	22
Hoquiam	45	69	56	4	45	19	0	0	0.57	-0.92	5	5.45	-1.95	74	25
Kelso	45	72	58	7	56	39	1	1	0.52	-0.39	4	3.72	-1.19	76	20
Olympia	40	70	56	8	42	35	1	1	0.52	-0.52	5	4.53	-0.53	90	24
Sea-Tac	45	68	56	5	43	26	1	1	0.30	-0.47	4	2.29	-1.72	57	21
Shelton	38	72	56	5	41	27	0	0	0.83	-0.50	4	5.59	-0.65	90	22
Tacoma	39	70	57	7	49	36	4	4	0.38	-0.41	3	2.80	-1.28	69	17
Vancouver	46	70	59	8	62	47	3	3	0.34	-0.41	2	3.12	-0.99	76	20
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	36	72	55	10	36	36	0	0	0.16	0.02	1	0.52	-0.34	60	7
Stampede Pass	38	58	49	11	5	5	0	0	1.97	0.39	4	9.84	2.17	128	23
Wenatchee	42	75	57	9	51	42	3	3	0.12	0.00	1	0.34	-0.34	50	6
Yakima AP	36	72	55	7	35	27	1	1	0.05	-0.09	1	0.42	-0.29	59	7
NORTHEAST															
Colville	36	70	53	10	25	25	1	1	0.12	-0.18	1	1.20	-0.74	62	10
Deer Park	28	71	51	7	19	19	0	0	0.27	0.01	2	1.50	-0.07	96	12
Spokane AP	39	68	53	8	20	19	0	0	0.06	-0.18	1	1.31	-0.05	96	10
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	41	76	56	7	46	35	2	2	0.08	-0.04	1	1.03	0.39	161	8
Moses Lake	37	74	56	7	46	35	3	3	0.11	-0.01	1	1.04	0.40	163	7
Quincy	38	75	57	9	47	40	6	6	0.15	0.01	1	0.84	0.11	115	7
Ritzville	39	70	54	8	31	26	0	0	0.05	-0.15	1	1.29	0.21	119	8
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	38	74	58	5	56	29	5	5	0.06	-0.02	1	0.21	-0.38	36	3
Pasco	36	79	58	7	56	37	11	11	0.14	0.00	1	1.10	0.40	157	7
Pullman	34	73	54	8	33	26	0	0	0.05	-0.29	2	0.67	-1.26	35	8
Whitman Miss.	33	80	56	8	45	36	4	4	0.15	-0.09	1	1.07	-0.30	78	12
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	37	70	52	5	21	14	0	0	0.04	-0.34	1	1.14	-1.10	51	8
Lewiston ID	43	78	59	9	66	48	10	10	0.05	-0.16	1	0.76	-0.68	53	8

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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